



the caring difference

A PUBLICATION FOR THE KENTUCKY CITIZEN FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS PROGRAM

Parenting Classes Can Vary by Region, Content

By Shelia Dalton, editor

Parenting - it's one of the toughest jobs, if not the toughest job in the world. However, the reward of watching a child grow into a responsible, happy, and productive adult can make years of hard work and worry seem inconsequential.

Yet, not all parents have the skills or - in some cases - the desire to care for children until they're able to make it on their own. As Judge Cynthia Sanderson noted in the last issue, parenting is a *learned* skill. And this seemingly instinctual skill is learned by observing the ways in which our own parents handled the day-to-day challenges of everyday life.

As CFCRB reviewers, we see far too many instances of poor parenting skills that, without intervention, are sure to be passed on to the next generation.

To help these parents learn new ways to manage anger and discipline their children, a frequent objective on case plans is the requirement that the parent(s) participate in parenting classes. As a reviewer, I've found it can be very difficult to gauge a parent's progress based solely on the

notes in the case files. Without an understanding of what these classes consist of, how many classes are required, and how few classes one is permitted to miss, it's tough to assess whether "mom" or "dad" is making progress toward the goals set out for them.

To learn more about parenting classes, I contacted the Cabinet for Families and Children to obtain information about the class requirements and the curriculum.

While a number of community programs are utilized, there are no statewide standards, regulations, or policies regarding the content of parenting classes, said Carey Durrett, Branch Manager for the Division for Placement and Permanency. The reason, she explained, is that the classes are provided through an array of community programs and are funded in a number of different ways.

To find out what is offered to the families of the children whose cases you review, you can contact your local DCBS office to find out which community programs are utilized in your area. I did this, and found that there were a handful of different programs serving my area. I also found that the

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Spring is here... April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Thank you for helping to make life better for children.



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Message from State Chair

By Elizabeth C. Lucas

As we begin a new year, and spring is upon us, it is a time of reflection, renewal, and rededication. I, like many of you, have often wondered if what we

do is important. The answer to that question is a resounding yes. If we make a difference in just one child's life, then our mission is accomplished.

As we work to achieve permanency for children, we must keep in mind that our roles and responsibilities are vast and varied. As Foster Care Review Board members, we are advocates for children, advisors to the court, participants on a board, and possibly members of a CFCRB committee. Inherent in what we do is adversity. Let us agree that we may not always agree. We may disagree with committee recommendations or Executive Committee priorities. We may

disagree with permanency plans, plan progress, or provided services. In these instances, adversity doesn't build character, it reveals it. What is important is how we resolve conflict and problem solve. The manner in which we do these things has the power to propel our organization and our cause forward. We must commit ourselves to using our unique gifts to solve problems, to persist for the permanency of children, to insist that necessary services be provided, and to advocate for results that are in the best interest of the children.

Oftentimes we are so wrapped up in going to our meetings and reviewing cases that we miss the big picture – the children. This year I urge each of you to reflect, renew, and rededicate. Individually and collectively, we must rise above adversity. What we do is important, and we will make a difference in the lives of children. There is no more meaningful way to affect the life of someone else.

H.B. 62 Provides Tuition Waiver for Children Who Are in Foster Care or Who Have Been Adopted Through the State

Introduced in January and signed by Governor Patton on March 15, 2001, House Bill 62 creates a new section of KRS Chapter 164 to require public postsecondary institutions to waive tuition and mandatory student fees (to the extent tuition is not covered by other state or federal student aid programs) for a Kentucky foster or adopted child who is a full-time student, as long as the prospective student meets all entrance requirements for the institution and maintains academic eligibility while enrolled.

An eligible student is defined as one who is over age 18 and the student's family receives state-funded adoption assistance under KRS 199.555; is currently placed in foster care by the Cabinet for Families and Children or the Department of Juvenile Justice; is in an independent living program; was in the custody of the Cabinet for Families and Children or the Department of Juvenile Justice prior to being adopted by a family that resides in Kentucky; or was in the custody of the Cabinet for Families and Children or the Department of Juvenile Justice on his or her 18th birthday. Information about HB 62 is available online at the LRC's website, www.lrc.state.ky.us/record/01rs/HB62.htm.

Parenting Classes, continued from page 1

number of classes can vary, as can attendance requirements.

By contacting the individual organizations, I was able to find answers to my questions. One agency even provided a copy of the curriculum, which consisted of 10 classes offered over a 10-week period. At this agency, the Center for Women, Families and Children, attendees must attend eight out of the 10 sessions within 16 weeks of beginning the group, as well as attend two testing sessions and achieve at least a score of five on four of the five sections on the post-AAPI (Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory) exam. They must also achieve 70 percent or better on a written exam.

Classes at this agency include topics on:

- corporal punishment
- self-esteem, self-concept, and praise
- discipline, rewards, and punishment
- talking to your children about sexuality, alcohol, and drugs
- anger and stress management
- communicating thoughts and feelings
- feelings and needs
- decision-making, negotiation, and compromise
- giving children choices; family rules
- child development and expectations

Course topics and completion criteria can vary by agency, and by region. To learn more about parenting classes in your area, you can begin by contacting your local DCBS office to find out which agencies offer classes. You can then contact the agencies directly to learn more.

Introducing the 2001 Executive Committee

Submitted by Anita C. Williams, State Vice Chair

The following individuals will serve on the CFCRB Executive Committee for 2001-2002:

- **Elizabeth Lucas, State Chair, Lexington.** Beth has been a volunteer for nine years and has served in several roles, including local board chair, editor of *the caring difference*, and other committee and state board roles.

- **Anita C. Williams, State Vice Chair and Conference Committee Chair, Paducah.** Anita has been an active CFCRB and community volunteer since 1989, and has served in several roles, including as State Chair and as chair of McCracken County Board A.

- **George Yarbrow, Region 1 Representative, Clinton.** George has been reviewing CFCRB cases on the Fulton/Hickman County Board for the past four years and is currently chair of that board.

- **Charlene Greer, Region 2 Representative, Owensboro.** Charlene has served on Daviess County Board A since 1996. She has also assisted with annual conferences that were held in Owensboro.

- **David Watson, Region 3 Representative, Manchester.** David is a reviewer on the Clay County Board.

- **Gwen Reome, Region 4 Representative, Louisville.** Gwen has been an active CFCRB volunteer and officer, and has been chair of Jefferson County Board II for 10 years.

- **Leah Fischbach, Region 4 Representative, Louisville.** Leah has been a CFCRB volunteer since 1980. She has served on the Legislative Committee and is currently chair of the Jefferson M/N Board.

- **Darlene Snyder, Region 5 Representative, Richmond.** Darlene has been a volunteer on Madison County Board A for the past four years. She has been active on the Conference Committee and has helped organize picnics for foster children and foster parents in her county.

- **Bill Anderson, Region 6 Representative, Shelbyville.** Bill has been a volunteer for 10 years and is chair of the Shelby County Board. He also has been a foster parent for 15 years.

- **Starkey Ray, Region 7 Representative, Mount Sterling.** Starkey has served on the Manchester County Board since 1988, and has been on the Executive Committee for four years. He has also served as vice chair of the Nominating Committee.

- **Angela Funk, Region 8 Representative, Lexington.** Angie is the chair of Fayette County Board F and has served on the Legislative Committee and as chair of the Conference Host Committee for the 2000 conference.

- **Doug Burnham, Past Chair and Nominating Committee Chair, Lexington.** Doug is the chair of Fayette County Board D, and has served in several roles, including as the State Chair for 1998-2000.

- **Lynn Crawford, Training Committee Chair, Versailles.** Lynn is a reviewer and former chair for the Woodford County Board. She has also served on the Public Relations and Conference Host committees.

- **Shelia Dalton, Public Relations Committee Chair, Lexington.** Shelia has been a

volunteer for eight years and serves as chair of Fayette County Board G. She has served on the 1998 Public Relations Committee and the 2000 Conference Host Committee, and is the current editor of *the caring difference*.

- **Linda Roberts, Recognition Committee Chair, Owensboro.** Linda is serving in her fourth year as a CFCRB volunteer on Daviess County Board B. She is employed as the center manager of the Boulware Center Mission, which is the oldest residential rehabilitation center for displaced citizens in Western Kentucky. She began her work there as a volunteer in 1994.

Duties of the CFCRB Executive Committee

- * Approve training programs for local citizen review board members.
- * Review and coordinate, as needed, the activities of local citizen review boards.
- * Establish and approve reporting procedures to be followed by the local citizen review boards.
- * Develop recommendations to be sent to the Governor, Chief Justice, CFC/DSS, and Legislative Research Commission.
- * Plan State Review Board and Executive Committee meetings and annual conferences.
- * Conduct an annual review of the bylaws of the State Review Board.
- * Select meeting places for State Review Board and Executive Committee Meetings, giving consideration to dates, time, accommodations, travel time, etc., within the economic reality of AOC budget limitations, and in consultation with the Kentucky CFCRB Manager.
- * At its first meeting during or after each annual State Review Board Meeting, appoint one of its members to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of the State Review Board for the upcoming year.



Message from the Manager

By Patrick Yewell

In the past year, over three million children were reported to child protective services agencies as alleged victims of child abuse or neglect. Approximately one million of these reports were confirmed.

Each day in the United States, three children die from abuse or neglect. Currently in Kentucky, we have approximately 6,000 children in foster care on any given day. Many of these children linger in care for years. Presently, the average length of stay of a child in foster care is over three years. Also in Kentucky, over 30,000 children were reported to have been abused or neglected, with over 40 percent of these children confirmed to be maltreated.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, which has been observed since President Reagan signed the first proclama-

tion in 1983. One very special day this year was April 5, which was designated as Blue Ribbon Day. This day began a number of years ago by one grandmother in Virginia who lost her grandson because of abuse. Her efforts have grown into a national campaign that includes a number of ceremonies throughout our state. Last year, more than 300,000 blue ribbons were distributed throughout the state.

It is also volunteer appreciation month. On behalf of our office and the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Cicely Jaracz Lambert, we thank you for your countless hours of service for the children of Kentucky. Your work ensures that every child's voice is heard and that no child is lost in the system.

Please contact me anytime @ (800) 928-2350. Once again, we thank all of you or your advocacy and hard work on behalf of Kentucky's children.

Mark Your Calendars!

The dates for this year's annual conference have changed:

Conference 2001

will be held

October 26-28

at the

**Holiday Inn - Airport
Florence, Ky.**



Above & Beyond

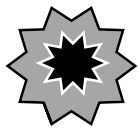
Congratulations to Jefferson County volunteer, Ted Wade, who was recently honored for his outstanding child advocacy efforts in the Louisville community.

Ted received the ECHO Community Volunteer of the Year Award, which is given to a current or former ECHO volunteer who has committed him- or herself to helping the community in areas concerning child exploitation.

ECHO's mission is to reduce the incidence of child victimization through public awareness, education and prevention programs, parent support services, and programs that provide a forum for community involvement.

Ted serves as a CFCRB volunteer, as chair of the Jefferson AA board, and as a temporary chair for the HH board. He has been a CFCRB volunteer since 1995, and has been a foster parent since 1993. He has helped with training sessions and has also served as chair for other boards whenever a need arises.

If you are aware of a CFCRB volunteer whose commitment to children is being recognized outside the CFCRB program, please write to Shelia Dalton, editor, *the caring difference*, at 3628 Olympia Circle, Lexington, KY 40517. Please provide information about the volunteer's work with CFCRB, a photo, and the child advocacy honor to be received from the community.



Events of Interest Around the Nation

Save the date! The National Association of Foster Care Reviewers is proud to announce that it is convening a national conference on foster care review, to be held May 31 - June 2, 2001, in Mesa, Arizona. The conference will highlight NAFCR's *Safe Passage to Permanency: Guidelines for Foster Care Review* and will feature workshops by state and local foster care review program staff and reviewers. Foster care reviewers will also be able to attend workshops on child welfare and reviewer issues being conducted by the Arizona Foster Care Review Board.

Event and contact information for this conference, along with others, are detailed below:

Power of Prevention Conference 2001: Working Together for Children

Prevent Child Abuse Virginia
May 7-9, 2001, Richmond, Virginia

Contact: Prevent Child Abuse Virginia
4901 Fitzhugh Avenue, Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23230-3531
(804) 359-0716; Fax: (804) 359-5065
E-mail: conference@pcav.org

**The Power of Hope in A Child's Life:
20th Annual National CASA Conference**
National CASA Association
May 19-22, 2001, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Contact: National CASA Association
North Tower, Suite 1
100 W Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98119
(800) 628-3233
E-mail: staff@nationalcasa.org
Web Site: <http://www.nationalcasa.org>

**The Cutting Edge:
Using Foster Care Review to Improve Outcomes for Kids In Care**
National Association of Foster Care Reviewers
May 31-June 2, 2001, Mesa, Arizona

Contact: Danielle Nabinger
NAFCR
4665 Lower Roswell Road, Suite 156
Marietta, GA 30068
(770) 977-5892; Fax: (770) 977-4240
E-mail: nafer-den@mindspring.com
Web Site: <http://www.nafcr.org>

For other national conference information, direct your web browser to:
<http://www.calib.com/nccanch/calendar/index.htm>

Calendar of Events

**Child Abuse
Prevention Month** April 1-30

**Conference
Committee Mtg.
Louisville** April 20

**Initial Training
Northern Ky.** April 21

**Initial Training
Madisonville** April 28

**Deadline to submit
newsletter information
for summer issue** May 7

**Regional Training
for Regions 5 & 7
Mt. Sterling** May 12

**Public Relations
Committee Mtg.
AOC Office, Frankfort** May 19

**Madison A Picnic
(for foster children)
Boonesboro State Park** May 20
1 pm

**Executive
Committee Mtg.
AOC Office, Frankfort** June 16

For more information about
any of the meetings or events
listed above, contact central
office at 1-800-928-2350.



Speakers' Bureau Coming Soon!

At the last meeting of the Public Relations Committee, plans were made to form a Speakers' Bureau to help spread the word to the public about what Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards are and how we function.

We will be recruiting a *minimum* of one speaker per region to be available to attend civic group meetings, clubs, churches, schools, and other organizations to show a short video, talk for a few minutes about the program, and answer questions from the audience.

Training that includes the information, tips on presentation, handouts, and anything necessary for you to feel comfortable with these presentations will be available soon. If you or anyone on your board is interested in becoming a part of this vital group, please contact the Public Relations Committee Team Leader for this project — Kay Coomes at 289 Myrtle Avenue, Eminence, KY 40019. Her telephone number is (502) 845-2995, or you can e-mail her at kay.coomes@gte.net.

This is a wonderful opportunity to promote awareness about CFCRB and to recruit volunteers. If you absolutely feel you cannot stand in front of a group, perhaps you can encourage another board member to give it a try or work in pairs. All regional representatives are encouraged to attend the training and serve as ambassadors for CFCRB as well.

The National Association of Foster Care Reviewers:

Helping Systems Work for Children

In 1980, Congress passed P.L. 96-272, The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act. This legislation required states to monitor the safety and permanency of children in foster care through the establishment of case review systems.

Early on, state and local foster care review programs recognized the value of review to expedite permanency for children in care, as well as the need for a national capacity to support and promote effective foster care review.

In 1985, the National Association of Foster Care Reviewers (NAFCR) was born. NAFCR's mission is to promote safe, permanent families for children in foster care by:

- Assuring that every child in foster care receives independent, timely, culturally responsive, quality case reviews
- Advocating on behalf of abused and neglected children at the case and policy levels by using the information gathered during the review process to initiate and sustain systemic reform

NAFCR fulfills this mission by:

- Developing resources and tools for conducting effective case reviews (*Safe Passage to Permanency: Guidelines for Foster Care Review*)
- Providing technical assistance and training for creating or enhancing case review systems (*Foundations in Foster Care Review: An Orientation Training for Foster Care Reviewers*)
- Providing a forum for networking and information exchange among review program administrators (*Administrator's Roundtable*)
- Pursuing a national strategy to grant states the legislative authority and funding to provide independent review of children in care

If you are interested in learning more about NAFCR and its national public policy and technical assistance efforts and services, contact Jerry Foxhoven, president, by e-mail at jfoxhoven@aol.com or by phone at (515) 281-7621.

Medical Records



Medical records are very important documents that summarize what, if any, medical issues and/or services a child needs or is receiving.

Medical records are (or should be) found in the right-hand side of the case file on top of the legal section. Each child should have a Medical History Form (DSS-106A) on which any serious medical conditions are listed.

Other medical information -- including recent health problems, sexual activity, current medications, use of drugs, and past illnesses -- is also recorded on this form.

As a reviewer, you should always look for the examining physician's report regarding the initial exam of the child. All children in care are to receive a medical examination within about a month of their commitment. Any significant health conditions should be noted on the gold card or on the inside of the chair's file to remind reviewers of any health concerns when the file is reviewed in the future.

Medical records are needed to complete the entire health picture of any child in care. By carefully reviewing this information, you can also find out what medication a child is taking and why.

By looking closely at the medical records in the case file, you will be better able to understand a child's condition and treatment, and to assess and report on whether you believe a child's medical needs are being met.

Promote the Value of Review

While foster care review is mandated by federal law as a protection for children in foster care, many children in our country's foster care system do not receive timely, independent, high quality reviews.

The National Association of Foster Care Reviewers anticipates that legislation will be introduced in the coming months in Congress that will clarify existing federal review provisions, making it easier for state and local foster care review programs to review the cases of all children in care at least twice a year. We will keep you posted on the status of this legislation and how you can help to ensure that every child in care is monitored through the review process.



Readers' Poll Results

THANK YOU....

Thanks to everyone who completed the recent Readers' Poll. The information you provided will help fine-tune *the caring difference* into a more informative, useful resource for all reviewers.

SURVEY SAYS....

Your comments show great interest in regular features such as the View from the Bench, and general topics such as children's educational, emotional, and medical needs. You also expressed a strong desire for information about upcoming legislation and the work of the legislative committee.

For future articles, you've expressed an interest in the perspectives of foster parents, experts, and former foster children.

Your input will be a valuable tool as the public relations committee works to make *the caring difference* a better, more useful tool for volunteers in the future.

YOUR HELP IS WELCOME...

If you would like to help research and write an article for *the caring difference*, or if you would like to submit an idea for us to cover, please write to the editor, Shelia Dalton, 3628 Olympia Circle, Lexington, KY 40517.

CFCRB Executive Committee

Elizabeth Lucas, Chair
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Charlene Greer, Region 2
David Watson, Region 3
Gwenn Reome, Region 4
Lea Fischbach, Region 4
Darlene Snyder, Region 5
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Doug Burnham, Past Chair

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Doug Burnham, Nominating Committee
Lynn Crawford, Conference Committee
Shelia Dalton, Public Relations Committee
Linda Roberts, Recognition Committee
Anita Williams, Conference Committee

the caring difference

Shelia Dalton, editor

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the caring difference is a publication of the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards Program. Printed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, it is designed to inform, challenge and provide a collective focus for citizen foster care reviewers across the Commonwealth. Volunteers are encouraged to submit articles or ideas to the editor, Shelia Dalton, at the Administrative Office of the Courts, Foster Care Review Boards, 100 Millcreek Park, Frankfort, KY 40601. Preparation for the next issue is under way!

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